



GOVERNOR RICK SNYDER

Richard D. Snyder was sworn in as the 48th governor of Michigan on January 1, 2011.

A successful businessman, Snyder had never sought political office prior to his gubernatorial bid. He successfully ran on the platform of “reinventing” Michigan in order to move the state forward after years of decline. Snyder is the first Certified Public Accountant to be elected governor of Michigan and is the only CPA in the country serving as a governor. His CPA background has been instrumental in Michigan’s turnaround.

In his first two years in office, the governor has used his trademark “relentless positive action” to help restore Michigan’s fiscal integrity, bring fairness to the state’s tax system, and create an environment that attracts more and better jobs to the state while building a strong foundation for the future.

After a decade of economic difficulty, Michigan is the comeback state in the nation. The governor’s plan to reinvent Michigan is working. Since Snyder took office, the state’s economy is at a 10-year high, the budget is balanced and long-term debt is being paid off, more people are working, per-capita income is on the rise, home sales are strong, and more students are prepared for college.

In January 2013 Snyder was elected co-chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors and is focused on protecting the largest single source of surface freshwater in the world, with a priority of working with neighboring Great Lakes states and provinces to tackle shared challenges and to take advantage of collective opportunities.

Snyder has significant executive leadership experience in the private sector, including serving as chairman and CEO of the computer company, Gateway. He also founded Ann Arbor-based venture capital and investment firms, and an online health and wellness company. He has been actively involved in economic development as well, having served as the first chair of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and authoring the business plan that became Ann Arbor SPARK — one of the most successful economic development organizations in the country.

A native of Battle Creek, Snyder graduated from Lakeview High School a semester early and went on to earn his bachelor’s degree, MBA and law degree from the University of Michigan — all by the age of 23. He chose to start his career in Michigan as a tax accountant with the Detroit office of Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) and, within six years, he made partner.

He and his wife, Sue, have one son and two daughters.